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December 24, 2002

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Bay State Gas Company, D.T.E. 02-73

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned proceeding on behalf of Bay State Gas Company ("Bay State" or the "Company") are an original and eight (8) copies of Bay State's Reply to the December 20, 2002 Appeal of the Hearing Officer's Ruling on Intervention.

Please date stamp a copy of this letter for our files.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Maribeth Ladd

Cc: Caroline O'Brien, Hearing Officer
Service List (w/o Enc.)